



LEWIS & CLARK CITY-COUNTY Health Department

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Register by Sept. 20 for Free Bedbug Workshop

Anyone wanting to learn more about bedbugs – including how to identify and control them – is invited to attend a free one-day workshop Oct. 4 in Helena. Participants must register by Sept. 20 to reserve a spot.

The workshop will be offered from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in Rooms C205-209 of the Cogswell Building at 1400 Broadway. It's sponsored by the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department, Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services, Montana Children's Health Network, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

To learn more, visit www.LewisandClarkHealth.org and click on the link under "Upcoming Events." Or contact Laura Hendley, registered sanitarian, at 447-8352 or lhendley@lccountymt.gov.

The free workshop is open to anyone but is specifically aimed at landlords, public-housing managers, school nurses, child- and foster-care providers, hotel and motel owners and managers, group home managers, pesticide applicators, sanitarians, and local health professionals.

Topics to be covered include:

- Identifying bedbugs at all stages of their life cycle;
- Recognizing the signs of bedbugs and where to look for them;
- Comparing different treatment options, including heat, cold, pesticides, "alternative" and other treatments, and learning about their appropriate use; and
- Understanding the basic legal issues surrounding bedbugs, as well as landlord-tenant responsibilities.

Bedbugs are small, flat, parasitic insects that feed on the blood of people and animals while they sleep. Although they are not known to transmit disease, they can be annoying because their presence may cause itching and loss of sleep. Sometimes the itching can lead to excessive scratching that can increase the chance of a secondary skin infection. Some people may have serious allergic reactions to bedbugs.

Although the presence of bedbugs has traditionally been seen as a problem in developing countries, it has recently been spreading rapidly in parts of the United States, including Montana. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, their presence is not determined by the cleanliness of the living conditions where they're found.

*The mission of the Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department
is to protect and improve the health of all county residents.*